Abstract of the Disclosure

DETECTING NUCLEIC ACID DELETION SEQUENCES

In a method for determining the presence of deletions in nucleic acids, a sample suspected of containing nucleic acid of interest is contacted with reagents including those appropriate for short PCR and primers flanking the deletion sequence. The nucleic acid that has been contacted with this material is amplified and identified. Wild type nucleic acids having long sequences between the sequences that hybridize to the primers are not amplified. Mutant nucleic acids are amplified. Thus, the detection of amplicons signals the presence of nucleic acid sequences having deletions. Contacting the sample with cleavage reagent specific for the deletion sequence cleaves wt DNA but not mutant nucleic acids that do not contain the deletion sequence.